CITY OF ISSAQUAH
MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (MDNS)

Description of Proposal: Construct a new 18-inch stormwater line to serve residential subdivisions in the SE 48th St drainage basin; to convey stormwater flows from the developments located near the edge of the Sammamish Plateau down to the valley floor. The purpose of the pipeline is to tightline peak stormwater flows down a steep ravine to bypass a natural drainage, in order to prevent erosion that could occur if stormwater was discharged at the top of the slope and headwater of the drainage. The stormwater pipe would outfall through an energy dissipater into the stream on the valley floor where the gradient is low and the increased discharge wouldn't result in channel erosion. Existing, pre-development hydrology of the stream and wetlands would be maintained.

The lower reach of the natural drainage, where the pipeline would outfall, is identified as Park Hill Creek, a Class 2 stream with salmonids. The upper reach of the drainage in the ravine is unnamed and unrated. Park Hill Creek flows under East Lake Sammamish Parkway into an unnamed drainage which flows to the north, parallel to the road and then flows west into the Lake Sammamish State Park wetland complex and into Lake Sammamish.

Location of Proposal: The project is located in the North Issaquah area; east of East Lake Sammamish Parkway, west of 236th Ave SE and Issaquah Pine Lake Road, south of SE 48th St, and north of SE 53rd St and the Overdale neighborhood. See attached Project Location Map.

Permit Number: ASDP14-00005, PUB13-00076

Proponent: City of Issaquah Public Works Engineering
P.O. Box 1307
Issaquah, WA 98027
Attn: Kerry Ritland

Lead Agency: City of Issaquah

SEPA Determination: Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS)

Determination: The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

Comment/Appeal Period: This MDNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and 197-11-680(3)(a)vii. There is a 21-day combined comment/appeal period for this determination, between **June 11, 2014 and July 2, 2014.** Anyone wishing to comment may submit written comments to the Responsible Official. The Responsible Official will reconsider the determination based on timely comments. Any person aggrieved by this determination may appeal by filing a Notice of Appeal with the City of Issaquah Permit Center. Appellants should prepare specific factual objections. Copies of the environmental determination and other project application materials are available from the Issaquah Development Services Department, 1775 12th Avenue NW.

Appeals of this SEPA determination must be consolidated with appeal of the underlying permit, per IMC 18.04.250.

Responsible Official: Peter Rosen

Position/Title: SEPA Responsible Official

Address/Phone: P.O. Box 1307, Issaquah, WA 98027-1307 (425) 837-3094

Date: 6/11/2014 **Signature:** Peter Rosen

Notes:

1. This threshold determination is based on review of the following application materials: Construction plans and details, clearing grading & TESC plan received April 10, 2013; Project Description and Hydrologic Analysis received April 10, 2013; Access and drainage easements received April 10, 2013; Eastlake Sammamish Parkway SE Stormwater Drainage Improvements (Mead & Hunt) dated March 19, 2013; Environmental Checklist received April 10, 2013; and other documents in the file.
2. Issuance of this threshold determination does not constitute approval of the permit. The proposal will be reviewed for compliance with all applicable City of Issaquah codes, which regulate development activities, including the Land Use Codes, Building Codes, Road Standards, Surface Water Design Manual, and the Critical Area Regulations.

Findings:

1) Project Objective - The purpose of the pipeline is to tightline peak stormwater flows down a steep hillslope to bypass a natural drainage/stream, in order to prevent erosion that could occur if stormwater was discharged at the top of the slope and headwater of the drainage. The stream channel that drains the development area drops approximately 350 vertical feet in a steep gully between the plateau and the valley floor. The discharge of stormwater at the top of the drainage could result in channel erosion and degrade water quality. Development permits for residential subdivisions located in the SE 48th St drainage basin were conditioned to require the developments to connect to the proposed stormwater line in order to protect the hillside section of the stream. The stormwater code requires tightlines down steep slopes to protect from erosion up to a 100-year storm event.

2) Stream classification - The upper reach of the drainage in the steep ravine is unnamed and unrated. The lower reach of the drainage, to the east of East Lake Sammamish Parkway, is identified as Park Hill Creek, a Class 2 stream with salmonids according to the City's stream classification map (Stream Inventory and Habitat Evaluation Report, March 2003). Based on a qualitative field assessment the stream habitat may support Cutthroat trout. DNR water type mapping (FPARS) identifies the stream as a non-fish bearing stream ("N") on the east side of East Lake Sammamish Parkway. Park Hill Creek flows under East Lake Sammamish Parkway into an unnamed drainage which flows to the north, parallel to the road and then flows west into the Lake Sammamish State Park wetland complex and into Lake Sammamish.

3) Hydrologic Evaluation - The City prepared a basin-wide hydrologic evaluation to address the cumulative stormwater impacts of several development projects in an area with no existing public stormwater infrastructure and to evaluate a regional stormwater line to serve the area. The capacity of the 18" pipeline is approximately 22 cfs and is sized to serve the built-out condition of the drainage basin (up to the 100-year flow event assuming undetained flow).

   An objective of the project is to maintain pre-development flow rates in the stream, only stormwater runoff in excess of pre-development rates would be routed to the pipeline. The residential developments would be required to detain their stormwater to either the Level 1 or

Level 2 flow control standard. Water diverted to the pipeline would only include flows in excess of the 10-year storm event and excess baseflow below the 2-year event. This would be accomplished by using flow splitters downstream of the detention pond outlets. Each development that ties into the system will be required to demonstrate that their proposed stormwater system would maintain pre-development stream and wetland hydrology.

The proposed project would not change how water quality treatment of stormwater runoff would be performed at each of the development sites. The current requirement is to treat to the Sensitive Lake Protection standard for phosphorus removal, since all projects ultimately discharge to Lake Sammamish.

4) Stormwater Pipeline Route – The proposed stormwater pipeline would be constructed by the developer of the Issaquah 22 subdivision, located on the Sammamish Plateau. The development was conditioned to tightline their stormwater discharge to avoid potential erosion impacts. The first segment of the stormwater line would be constructed in City right-of-way (ROW) as part of the Issaquah 22 development. The City will work with Issaquah 22 to set up a late-comers agreement to recover pro-rata costs from future developments that connect to the pipeline.

   The stormwater line would follow SE 51st St and then go through wetland buffer in the Highland Terrace subdivision. Alternative routes were evaluated before this alignment was determined. If the stormwater line followed SE 51st St through Highland Terrace, it would require trenching approximately 13 feet deep (typical trenching is 4 feet deep) due to the topography and this depth of trenching would have an impact on the neighborhood. The proposed alignment would be in the outer portion of the 37.5 foot wetland buffer; approximately 1/3 of the alignment is already encumbered with an existing public storm system. The pipe would be flexible and the alignment would meander to avoid impacts to significant trees (caliper of 6-inches or greater). Significant trees that must be removed will be required to be replaced at a ratio of 1 tree for every 6-inches of caliper of the removed tree(s). Temporary impacts/disturbance of other vegetation related to the construction of the pipeline will require restoration.

   The stormwater line would go down the steep sloped ravine on City-owned property (Tract D). The City property is subject to a conservancy easement with Forterra (previously Cascade Land Conservancy). The conservation easement has been modified to allow a pipeline to be constructed anchored to the ground surface, in order to avoid the impacts of trenching a pipeline down the steep slope. The pipe would be flexible and the alignment would meander to avoid impacts to significant trees. Significant trees that must be removed will be required to be replaced at a ratio of 1 tree for every 6-inches of caliper of the removed tree(s). Temporary impacts/disturbance of other vegetation related to the construction of the pipeline will require restoration. The ground-surface pipe may be partially buried to reduce visual impacts. If the ground-surface pipe is highly visible, jute matting would be laid over the pipe to promote vegetative growth to screen the pipeline.

   The stormwater pipe would outfall through an energy dissipater into Park Hill Creek on the valley floor where the gradient is low and the increased discharge wouldn't result in channel erosion.

5) Downstream mitigation – A hydrologic analysis (Mead & Hunt, 2013) evaluated stormwater system improvements needed downstream of the pipeline outfall in order to convey the increased stormwater volume. These improvements would also address existing drainage/flooding problems on the lower reach of the stream, adjacent to the BMC West property and East Lake Sammamish Parkway. Since most of the cost of these improvements relate to existing problems, with the developments contributing a relatively minor increase to existing flows, the City would construct the improvements through the Stormwater Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The City's Stormwater CIP includes budget for project design in 2014 and construction in 2015. An in-lieu mitigation fee would be charged to developers based on their contribution of flow to the tight-line

system in order to partially fund downstream improvements and to mitigate for downstream impacts. The stormwater system improvements include: 1) adding a new 24-inch culvert, parallel to the existing culverts, to convey flows under East Lake Sammamish Parkway (ELSP); 2) constructing a small berm along the west edge of ELSP to separate the roadway from the drainage channel that runs parallel to the road, and a small pump station (2.5 cfs) would be constructed at the low point of the roadway to pump stormwater out of the street and into the roadside drainage channel.

In anticipation of the pipeline project, in 2008 the City constructed improvements to Park Hill Creek, between the outfall and East Lake Sammamish Parkway. This section of the creek runs along the north edge of the BMC West parking lot and the creek flooded the parking lot during heavy rain events. The project consisted of relocating 375 feet of the stream channel and removing sediment accumulations to restore flow capacity/conveyance. The project also included habitat improvements; removing invasive plant species and replanting with native vegetation, and installing LWD on the channel to improve fish habitat.

Mitigation Measures: The Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance is based on the checklist received April 10, 2013 and supplemental information in the application. The following SEPA mitigation measures shall be deemed conditions of the approval of the licensing decision pursuant to Chapter 18.10 of the Issaquah Land Use Code. All conditions are based on policies adopted by reference in the Land Use Code.

1. The alignment of the stormwater pipe through the wetland buffer in Highland Terrace and in the City-owned steep slope Tract D shall avoid the removal of significant trees (over 6-inch caliper). The alignment shall be reviewed in the field by the Development Services Department prior to construction. The pipe shall be anchored on the ground surface to avoid impacts of trenching on steep slopes.
2. Significant trees that must be removed for installation of the stormwater line shall be replaced using the City's tree replacement ratio of 1 tree for every 6-inches of the caliper of trees removed. Temporary, construction impacts to vegetation shall be restored to original conditions.
3. The ground-surface pipe may be partially buried to reduce visual impacts. If the ground-surface pipe is highly visible, jute matting shall be laid over the pipe to promote vegetative growth to screen the pipeline.
4. Residential development that ties into the stormwater system shall pay their pro-rata share for the downstream improvements, as identified in the Mead & Hunt Technical Memo.

cc: Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Forterra
Parties of record
Issaquah Development Services Division
Issaquah Parks and Public Works Department